SPECIAL ISSUE—CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

Workers

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

Vol. 6, No. 24.

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1937.

5 Cents a Copy

REACTIONARY PLOT BEHIND **BARCELONA PROVOCATIONS**

Foreign Correspondent of Workers Age Describes Widespread Attempt To Disarm Revolutionary Workers Instigated by Communist Party British, French Imperialism Involved

By LAMBDA

May 19, 1937. I. ABOUT THE MAY STRUGGLES IN CATALONIA WHAT was behind the fighting which took place in Barcelona and the rest of Catalonia during the first week of May, is becoming constantly clearer in the light of additional reports and the actions of the various parties and organizations involved. The most important facts may be summarized in a few paragraphs.

The fighting began on Monday, May 3, with the attempt of the PSUC1 to occupy the telephone exchange building in Barcelona, until then under the control of the CNT.2 This action was based on a far-reaching and carefully constructed plan. The telephone exchange buildings at Lerida, Gerona, Taragona, etc., were supposed to be simultaneously occupied and taken over. That all this was of the nature of provocation and conspiracy becomes perfectly obvious when it is remembered that the plan of the Catalonian government had been kept a dead secret—that is to say, Companys probably knew all about it but the plan was most assuredly kept secret from the CNT-FAI members of the government. Those who instigated the whole affair and then took action were the PSUC and the Communist Party of Spain and upon them falls the entire responsibility.

The revolutionary workers of Barcelona and the rest of Catalonia answered spontaneously with a general strike, erecting barricades and disarming the government troops. By Wednesday, the CNT-FAI were the unquestioned masters of the situation in Barcelona as well as the rest of Catalonia. A

1 PSUC-United Socialist Party of Catalonia, the Comintern party of that country.

2 CNT-National Confederation of Labor, the anarchosyndicalist trade union federation.

FAI-Iberian Anarchist Federation.

change in the situation occurred, however, because the leadership of the CNT and the FAI did not dare to carry through their victory by taking power into their hands. On Wednesday, the CNT and the FAI fell in with a strategic manouver of the PSUC and the Esquerra,3 intended as a ruse to assure the latter the upper hand. The CNT and the FAI ordered their members to cease armed struggle and bade them to return to work. Immediately thereafter, however, the well-armed formations of the PSUC renewed their attack. From Valencia, 5,000 Assault Guards as well as several warships were sent to Barcelona. With their aid, the disarming of the revolutionary workers was carried out, a feat which could never have been accomplished in an open fight. Countless arrests and assassinations of anarchists, syndicalists and POUMists4 were carried out at once. The editorial staff of "La Batalla," central organ of the POUM. was arrested. "La Batalla" itself was put under strictest preliminary censorship. The PSUC and the CP of Spain opened a fiendish drive to outlaw and dissolve the POUM. The Comintern press helped out very loudly.

Statements issued by Companys, President of Catalonia, reveal the fact that his appeals for assistance fell on deaf ears in Valencia until he ceded the Valencia government the right to take over all police functions as well as the high command of the Catalonian troops at the front—a piece of extortion aimed at the extinction of Catalonian autonomy. The leadership of the CNT-FAI reports that it sent a number of trustworthy persons to the CNT batallions on the Aragon front in (Continued on Page 5)

3 Esquerra—a bourgeois liberal party of Catalonia.
4 POUM—Workers Party of Marxist Unity, the independent communist party of Catalonia and Spain, which, unlike the official communist party, is following a really communist policy in the Spanish civil war.

Railroads Move To Aid Steel Interests

Baltimore and Ohio Wants Martial Law To Aid Its Shipments To Scabs; Impressive Funeral Held For Steel Martyrs In Chicago.

ONNIVANCE of the powerful railroad interests with the adamant open-shoppers of "Little Steel' to break the solid strike of the steel workers of Republic and Youngstown Sheet and Tube, marked this week's developments. Especially significant is this factor because the railroads are for all practical purposes the joint property of the government and the capitalists. Thus, this may be an entering wedge by which the national administration can, in concealed fashion, throw its weight on

the side of the steel magnates. The Baltimore and Ohio RR. in-

formed Governor Davey of Ohio

that a "state of riot" existed in the

steel areas, and if it were forced by

pickets to cease deliveries to the

plants, wide-spread layoffs would

be caused. This insidious appeal is

double-edged. First, it practically

demands that martial law be de-

clared and the strike broken by the

armed forces of the state, and sec-

ond, it attempts to undermine the

I. C. L. L. PROTESTS JAILING OF GORKIN BY NEGRIN GOV'T.

WORKERS AGE has just that the official organ of the POUM, La Batalla, has been suppressed and that Gorkin, one of the leaders of the POUM, has been jailed.

The following cables were dispatched immediately to Premier Negrin in Valencia and to President Companys in Barcelona:

'We supporters of the Spanish struggle against fascism protest the arrest of Gorkin and the suppression of La Batalla. We demand the restoration of workers democracy."

The cables are signed by Jay Lovestone as secretary of the Independent Communist Labor

CI Calls for **United Front**

Almeria Bombing Brings **Appeals For Aid** From Spain

The Communist International thru its spokesman George Dimitrov, has just made public an appeal to the proletariat of the world to get together in united front action on behalf of the Spanish fighters against fascism. The appeal is directed especially to socialist workers thru their Socialist and Labor International and to the International Federation of Trade Unions.

The appeal of the Comintern constitutes an answer to the Spanish working class organizations who called on all labor internationals to stop fascist intervention after the bloody Nazi attack on Almeria. In the face of this appeal and remembering also Guernica and the continued sinking of Spanish Loyalist ships by Italian submarines, the Comintern soft-pedaled its attitude of complete dependence on the "democratic" powers in the struggle against fascism and turned once again to the class that can defeat fascism-the fighting international proletariat.

A united front, the statement says, could compel the British and French government "to adopt energetic measures against the inter-(Continued on Page 3)

pro-strike sentiment growing among the railway unions. Up to the present, crews have refused to transport materials intended for scabs beyond the steel workers picket lines. Whether it may be possible to forestall this reactionary combine of steel, railroads and government by militant action of the Railroad Brotherhoods remains to be seen. That the steel strike has reached a sharpened stage was evidenced by the increasing attempts for federal intervention on both sides. Tom

Girdler, head of Republic, demanded that the Post Office rescind its ruling not to send food and clothing to the scabs, while the SWOC announced that it has appealed to Roosevelt to mediate the strike.

After an impressive funeral demonstration for the seven workers brutally massacred by Republic Steel's Chicago police force, the Mayor of the city asked Republic to cease housing scabs in the fac-

N.Y. News Guild Votes for C.I.O.

The New York Newspaper Guild, at a special membership meeting held June 2nd, voted to instruct its delegates to the forthcoming national convention of the ANG to support affiliation to the CIO. The International's Executive Board has already made public a report urging such a move in the interests of the labor movement as a whole and in the interests of new campaigns contemplated by the Guild.

Broadening of jurisdiction to include "business, circulation, advertising and all other departments not eligible for membership in other unions," was approved. It was pointed out that the AFL would not permit such a drive.

A motion to affiliate with the American Labor Party was postponed but delegates were instructed to reaffirm the Guild's stand for a national labor party.

The convention will be held in St. Louis, June 7 to 12,

| CPO Convention Reflects New Stages of American Labor

By WILL HERBERG

THE sixth convention of the tion), held recently in New York City, cannot be evaluated or even described in terms of any other convention of similar character. Ir its political approach, in its composition, in its very mode of procedure, it represented something essentially new; there was in it that living organic fusion of uncompromising revolutionary theory and flexible, realistic practise that has come to characterize so strikingly the organization whose highest will it expressed. In the convention were mirrored, in the most vivid form, the power and vitality, as well as the historical mission, of the C.P.O.

Mirror Of Our Group

There was a political logic in the very composition of the convention. Of the 101 delegates, regular, alternate and fraternal, who constituted the gathering, 86 were members of trade unions and 59 held some official position in their

organization, from local committee to the general executive board. Communist Party (Opposi- | Every important union, especially scene of industrial struggle, contributed some outstanding fighters. Thirty five of the delegates had taken part in the foundation of the C.P.O. nearly eight years before; over 50, on the other hand, had joined in the last four years. Fortyfour had been members of the official Communist Party, 22 of the Socialist Party, while 35 had never belonged to any workers political group before. Here we have a picture of a living, thriving organization, winning to itself the best elements among the class-conscious workers, indissolubly fused with the whole labor movement of which it forms so organic a part.

Spain—And the C.I.O.

There was the same political logic in the order of business of the convention. On Saturday—the international situation and the Spanish revolution; on Sunday-(Continued on Page 7)

Ousted NY Unions Plan Joint Action

Not daring to bring the question before a delegated assembly, the executive committee of the Central Trades and Labor Council of New York simply "declared" that all unions affiliated with the CIO were "suspended." Three hundred thousand workers are affected by this burocratic move, made on the orders of William Green, and supported by those who fear the great organization drives of the CIO. The 45 locals suspended belong to the International Ladies' Garment Workers of America, the Transport Workers Union, the Bookkeepers and Stenographers, and the United Textile Workers.

The New York office of the CIO announced that plans were being considered for unifying the work of the CIO unions in this city.

SUPPLEMENTARY TRADE UNION RESOLUTION

these industries as the fig-leaf for

6. The September resolution

the future of the CIO as an inde-

pendent factor will be affected by

the outcome of the steel organiza-

tion campaign. Marked success in

that. In auto and steel, it has built

signed up the three giants in the

ndustry-Firestone, Goodrich, and

fields. The initial ten organizations

The CIO is today in a virtually

7. Simultaneously with its ex-

The following resolution was adopt- Edison, General Motors, U. S. ed by the Sixth Convention of the Steel; diplomatised with the com-Communist Party (Opposition), (now pany unions in steel, admitted to the Independent Communist Labor membership the "blue card" com-League) held in New York on May pany union in Galena, Kansas, granted charters to the company 29, 30 and 31, 1937.—Editor. union in the Consolidated Edison.

1. During the eight months that These are the types of organizahave elapsed since the considera- tions which the AFL attracts on tion of our resolution on the trade the basis of its activity in industry. union situation (National Confer- The AFL is serving in many of ence in New York, September 5 to 7, 1936) actual developments in the the company unions, a not unimlabor movement have more than portant consideration in the light justified the basic analysis and conof the Wagner Act. clusions contained therein. The Sixth National Convention of the stated: "To a considerable degree, CPO therefore approves the above

2. The last convention of the American Federation of Labor, far from bringing nearer a condition of this campaign, such as would inunity in the labor movement, really volve the organization of scores deepened the existing split by ap- of thousands of steel workers into proving the suspension of the ten a strong union, would place the international unions. Since then, CIO in a virtually impregnable the A. F. of L. has broken its position. pledge of maintaining the unity of the city and state central labor bodies by beginning a war of ex- up organizations with a membertermination against CIO affiliates ship of 300,000 in each, and signin such bodies. The entire state ed up the most decisive firms in federation of Georgia was expelled both industries. In the rubber inin the course of this drive. In ad- dustry the CIO has built a powerdition, the A. F. of L. leadership ful organization which has just has called a conference of the burocracy thruout the A. F. of L. to be held in Cincinnati for the purpose of considering the formal expulsion

3. Despite the internecine war now going on, the last period has been one of tremendous extension ILGWU, for instance, has grown of trade unionism. For the second to 240,000 members. time in this decade trade union membership is rising sharply. The impregnable position with its main present growth, set off by the CIO's strength, to the extent of more courageous struggle for the organ- than a million members, in the ization of the mass production in- mining, steel and auto industries. dustries, constitutes a veritable The CIO is already the decisive dom. avalanche of trade union organiza- trade union body in the United tion in which also the A. F. of L. States. is profiting for the time being.

4. In the case of the CIO this tension of organization, in fact begrowth proceeds on the basis of the cause of it, the CIO contributed in organization of the mass produclines. The considerable degree of in the mass production industries, stabilization within these unions where trade unionism was of the A. F. of L., the growth is on effective in cracking the open shop the basis of the existing craft or- strongholds in the auto industries departed to some extent from these terms with union representatives, forms of organization for purposes and thus opening the gates for it is laying the basis for more and bigger jurisdictional disputes. A taken, lest the promiscuous use of unbreakable Tom, will have number of such disputes have al- the sit-down in industries where it speedy and complete recovery, we building trades and the metal Coast: between the International been tested and found effective. Longshoremen's Association and the Brotherhood of Railway and tinue its present state of organiza- unionists, and to prepare them and to CIO affiliation as many internadustries. Past experience has shown of the AFL makes necessary the the present truce in some industhat even when the AFL did grow creation of an organization more tries is at an end. its craft basis of organization made | closely knit together than is the | 9. In order to achieve this with | the increased membership.

5. Within the ranks of labor, a polarization is taking place. The remarkable achievements of the many organizations of labor hitherto remaning independent. The militancy and fighting spirit of the CIO have attracted such organizations as the United Radio and Electrical marked trend toward the CIO is Sixth CPO convention to extend his tion his application for readmission latter. also noticeable among the federal greetings. labor unions.



BRIGADER

Mooney Greets Convention; The CIO has done more than ICLL Pledges Further Aid the impact of the great drive to organize Henry the Butcher's auto

Fifteen Hundred Workers At Convention Mass Meeting Cheer Greetings: \$100 Given As First **Contribution To Last Drive**

Goodyear. Great progress has been Tom Mooney, foremost victim of and full freedom." made in radio, textile and other American ruling class brutality, The convention also voted to send now confined to the San Francisco \$100 as a first contribution towards which founded the CIO also have Hospital where he is recovering more than held their own. The from illness, took time out to send battle. his greetings to the Sixth Convention of the CPO. Moonev's telegram expressed his gratitude for the work of the CPO on his behalf and closed with a stirring plea for continued assistance at this timethe last stage of his fight for free-

The telegram, read by Chairman Jay Lovestone to the 1500 workers gathered at the convention mass cause of our militant loyalty, demeeting, received a great ovation. The following resolution was

developing a new strike strategy tion industries along industrial the sit-down—particularly effective adopted and forwarded to Mooney: "Fifteen hundred workers in mass meeting assembled at openbodes well for the possibilities of anathema. It is the new form of ing of our 6th National Convention retaining these masses. In the case the strike which proved especially hail you as tireless champion and inspiring symbol of working class struggle against American capitalganization and where the AFL has and bringing the employers to talk ist oppression and exploitation. It is with deepest regret that we have learned about your being ill. With of competition with the CIO forces, achieving eventually full and sole immeasurable hope and firmest recognition. Great care must be conviction that you, our own heroic ready broken out—between the is not effective, discredit it as an convey to you our warmest proleinstrument of labor in the mass tarian greetings and pledge ourtrades departments on the Pacific production industries where it has selves to be with you to the end in your struggle for your vindication 8. The CIO cannot long con-

remarkable achievements of the CIO have won to it the support of I. STENZOR, CLOAK-MAKERS PROGRESSIVE, JOINS ICLL lefts. On the contrary, the issue of workers is at present composed of

by its present position. Its com- years because of differences which organization. service to Ford, to Consolidated and development of the organiza- tional Council.

Steamship Clerks; and in other in- tion. The very splitting campaign their organizations for battle when tional unions and federal labor unions as possible. This becomes the immediate task of all progressives in the AFL. To keep on the it impossible for the AFL to retain CIO today. This is necessary also maximum speed it is necessary to fence such unions as are ready to Council of Optical Workers and for the purpose of stabilizing and consolidate and unify all the forces consolidating the mass of the new of labor behind the CIO, to win

the funds needed for the new legal

Mooney's greeting follows in full.

"From the depths of this fight-

ing heart of mine I send warmest

fraternal greetings of proletarian

solidarity to you for a successful

convention from this tomb of the

living dead where labor-crushing

employers buried us alive twenty-

one years ago on the foulest frame-

up conspiracy ever perpetrated, be-

votion and fidelity to the trade

"A new spirit is abroad in the

land. The giant Labor is at last

arousing from his slumbers. He is

capitalist opiates. Soon he will

ompletely break the shackles and

"I am sure in the course of your

orget those brave working class

soldiers who have fallen on the

American industrial battlefields or

union movement.

must not yield the issue of unity ed in Eastern factories. to the conservatives or the pseudo- This union of three thousand unity must be raised in the sharp- highly skilled workers, engaged in est manner in the organizations lens-grinding, etc. Their break with I. Stenzor, leader of the progres-1 tion, and the numerous forces remaining in the AFL. It is the the American Federation of Labor Workers, the Industrial Union of sive forces in the cloak division of which it had won from the basic chief duty of progressives to fight and recognition of the necessity of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, the International Ladies Garment industries of the country. In closing for unity with the CIO on the basis organizing the unskilled factory the United Shoe Workers, etc. A Workers Union appeared before the Stenzor placed before the conven- of the policies and structure of the workers in the industry are im-

to membership and the applications The issue of unity must not be sixty thousand workers are organ-Stenzor, who had remained out- of a group of his coworkers who approached as an abstraction. In a izable The AFL has also been affected side the organization for three had never belonged to any political very real sense, the short existence The resolutions on the CIO and of the CIO has already brought a the organization drive were intropetitive character, as against the CIO, has forced it into a class collaborationist position so crass as laboration so crass as laboratio hardly to be discerned, in some at all times a supporter of our organization standing. In the final build and strengthen the CIO is to and all supported the organization cases, from the policies of the outright company unions. It offered its foundly impressed with the growth elected to membership in the Nalabor in the United States, is to of the Pittsburgh local, is said to achieve genuine unity of all toilers. represent only a temporary opinion.

FORD THUGS CAN'T STOP THIS EMERGENCY New Company Union In Ford

General Motors Workers Formulate Demands For New Contract

Formation of an "independent" union in Ford plants to combat the United Automobile Workers of America was answered by a mass meeting of auto workers in Detroit under UAWA auspices. The new outfit, called the Ford Employees Brotherhood, Inc., has all the features of the old company union, but, in addition, seems to have characteristics of the "company mob," like the Flint Alliance, used by General Motors in the winter strikes. The utilization of this anti-union technique to circumvent the provisions of the Wagner Act against self-confessed company unions indicates the unholy lengths Ford is willing to go to prevent unionization among his supposedly contented men. Such a "brotherhood" based on a small section of these workers who have not yet been made to see their own class interests, cannot last long under

Inquiries concerning the beating of Organizer Frankensteen and others in front of the Ford Plant, where they distributed union leaflets, are now getting under way in Washington, It was announced by Homer Martin that one plant which he would not name, has already been signed up 100%, while Pacific Coast plant has settled vith the union in order to end a strike there.

Union representatives from General Motors plants met in a twoday conference, June 5 and 6, to formulate the UAWA demands to be presented to the corporation when the present agreement erpires in August. While full details ave not yet been published, it is inderstood that the demand for sole bargaining rights is primary. Homer Martin was named chairman of a permanent committee of eighteen to handle negotiations.

the class war. They fought for you. just beginning to stretch from a it is your imperative duty to fight long night of sleep produced by for them. My defense committee is penniless and desperately in need of immediate funds to continue stand erect a free mortal prepared your struggle for freedom and for the last final struggle for a vindication. I implore and earnestcompletely emancipated working ly plead for your continued wholehearted, generous assistance. My profound heartfelt thanks and profound deliberations you will not grateful appreciation for your past

who have been taken prisoner in Optical Workers Affiliate to CIO

The Optical Workers Organizing ommittee, formerly the Na tion drive among the semi- and 10. The progressives, however, unskilled workers, primarily locat-

portant progressive steps. About

by Bertram D. Wolfe, recently re- havior of their followers in Spain turned from Europe, in which the and declare that those who are re-Spanish situation figured promi- sponsible for the open betrayal of nently and in which he presented a the Spanish Revolution deserve the detailed statement of the class same severe punishment as is forces at work during the recent meted out in the Soviet Union to Emphasizes We Must Now events in Catalonia (see article by counter-revolutionary wreckers Lambda in this issue), the conven- who commit crimes against th

and the anarchists. The resolution assails the Valen- revolutionary program to meet cia government for provoking the the present emergency, especially bloody clashes in Barcelona by its the proposals for the formation of "counter-revolutionary attempts to a Revolutionary Workers Front and disarm the proletariat and thereby the creation of Committees for the to pave the way for the restoration Defense of the Revolution in Spain. of capitalism and for a compromise We urge the Spanish revolutionwith fascism at the behest and in aries to maintain the greatest the interests of world imperial- vigilance against the danger of

Sixth Convention Resolution

The resolution follows in full.

session of its International Buro-Greets the proletariat of Cata- and support the revolutionary lonia, who are the vanguard of the workers of Spain and their organfor emancipation, and who by their hour. We ask the members of the Spanish workers in their struggle for emancipation, and who by their heroic action in July, 1936, saved Spain from fascism:

Expresses its solidarity with the heroic resistance since the 4th of May, 1937, on the part of the workers of Barcelona and all Catalonia against the counter-revolutionary attempt to disarm the proletariat and thereby to pave the way for the restoration of capitalism and for a compromise with fascism at the behest and in the interest of world imperialism;

Hails the revolutionary stand of the POUM, the CNT, and the FAI against fascism, foreign invasion and attempts at internal counterrevolution under the banner of bourgeois democracy; Comintern Calls Socialists

Rejects with indignation the shameful slanders and calumnies levelled against them by the world bourgeoisie and their Social Democratic and official Communist allies. and calls upon the workers of all countries to regard the reports of the bourgeois, Social Democratic cism"; force the withdrawal of "the and official Communist press with interventionists from Spanish wa- war. Today it is Almeria; may it the greatest mistrust until they ters" (Germany and Italy); secure not be Odessa tomorrow? have secured reliable news from the "the operation of international real fighters of the Spanish prole- law" whereby it will be possible to for international united action of

The International Communist gressors, bandits and pirates" and The Spanish proletariat and peas-Opposition, as communists, especially condemn the shameful and progressive forces of the whole socialist worker must demand of anti-communist behavior of the world would make possible the his organization the immediate Communist Party of Spain and its curbing of the instigators of war." opening of negotiations between Catalonian section, the PSUC, which have on their hands the guilt united front still continue the il- Communist International for interof the crime of shedding the blood lusions inherent in the previous of revolutionary workers in the in- policies, its emphasis on proletariterest of capitalist counter-revolu- an action is of no small signifition, and at the very moment when cance. The present document also the attack of international fascism illustrates the disturbed state of Soviet diplomacy which finds the upon Bilbao is at its height.

We affirm the inescapable re- big European powers-even Peoership of the Communist Interna- the communists—upon whom the tional and of its dominant section, Soviets had banked, unwilling to

out by many members.

C.P.O. IS NOW I.C.L.L.

The name Communist Party (Opposition) are at the same time an indepen-position) is no more. By decision of dent organization, independent,

its Sixth National Convention the that is, of the official Communist

organization is henceforth to be Party and the Communist Interna-

known as the Independent Commu- | tional; 3) that we have independent

nist Labor League. The decision policies and activities in the class

ends a period of discussion on this struggle; and 4) that our activities

question in which the confusing are aimed at increasing our in-

nature of the name was pointed fluence in the trade unions and

The resolution adopted by the convention explains the meaning of the name in the first the name in the first the name in the first the f

of the name in the following man-of a 'new revolutionary party.'

"This name includes the follow- our orientation in the labor move-

ing necessary political factors: 1) ment in which we are striving to

the fact that we constitute a com- become a force for militancy and

manist organization: 2) that we clarity.

tion of the CPO approved a resolu- Russian Revolution. tion of the ICO placing itself | We pledge our unreserved supsquarely on the side of the POUM port to the only party of Communism in Spain, the POUM, and its

further attempts of the counterrevolution, such as are now manifestly being prepared by the re-The International Communist doubled campaign of calumny Opposition, assembled in plenary against the POUM, and call upon the workers of all lands to defend izations in this critical and decisive shameful position of their leader-

ships towards the POUM, CNT and Long Live the POUM, the true representative of Communism in Spain! Long live the CNT and FAI,

neroic fighters for proletarian free-Long live the proletariat Catalonia and Spain!

field of the world revolution!

(Continued from Page 1)

other organizations and building

"The proposed name emphasizes

After listening to a brilliant report on the international situation | the Communist Party of the Soviet port on the international situation | Union, for the anti-proletarian be-SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

> Become Guardians Of Communism In U.S.

ICO HAILS REVOLUTIONARY ACTION OF POUM, CNT

THE International Communist Opposition extended its greetngs to the convention of the CPO in the form of a letter by Heinrich Brandler. The document evaluates the work of the CPO in the trade union field and also in its pursuit of militant class struggle policies as against the people's front reformism of the Communist Party, and declares its wholehearted approval of the work. In addition the etter also expressed the profound gratitude of the German Communist Party Opposition for the generous financial aid sent by the American section of the ICO for work in underground Germany against the Nazi butchers. The document follows in full.

The Letter from ICO To the national convention of the CPO-USA.

Dear Comrades: Your convention can note with satisfaction that a new era in the present wave of recovery in capthe CIO and by such mighty battles great responsibility, to act as as the strike of the automobile guardian and champion of commuings and wishes for success of your battles with the bourgeoisie which

lift a finger when Nazi warships

for the first time since the world

Whatever the reasons, the call

vention of German and Italian fas- bombarded unarmed human targets

"finally, a joint onslaught by the antry must not call in vain. Every

Altho these objectives of the the labor internationals and the

The Test of Life

existing in America, has stood the test and proved itself correct. Especially, is this so in the current ican working class, and when conthis renewed and mighty struggle of the American proletariat.

activities is growing day by day, especially in consequence of the official CP's abandonment of communist principles, its open reformist policy. The CP with its people's front policy is furthering and supporting the illusions growing out of bourgeois democracy and of the italist economy. It is the mission of terized by the spectacular rise of the CPO, a mission fraught with sary to get under way an internaworkers, has brought with it a nist principles in behalf of the ism and Leninism in the struggle growth of the political influence masses of the American proleand the organizational strength of the CPO of the USA. The sections basis of experiences gathered in

relentlessly progressing decline of capitalism. We greet the fact that the CPO, in clear contrast to people's front propaganda dissemibasis of agitation for collective

action by the working class in its political struggle against capital-

For Change of Name It is the task of your conference to intensify, within the rank and file of the Communist Opposition, regard the interventionists as ag- the proletariat must be answered. the consciousness of the political necessity of strengthening it as an organization. The strength of the CPO as an organization is particularly important today because at no time in its history was the rades fighting illegally in Germany struggle waged by the ICO of like has been, and is, of incalculable significance for the destiny of the value. We take this occasion to ex-

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ational proletarian aid to the heroic

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deliberations we are conveying to you, are convinced that the decisions of your conference will prepare the ground for a further expansion of our American brother organization.

The CPO can point out with pride, today, that its line, forged in long years of strife concerning the application of communist principles under the specific conditions re-orientation period of the Amerfronted with the demands which have arisen in the sphere of revolutionary communist action during

The significance of the CPO's

tarian revolution, today the battle of the ICO, whose fraternal greetmust be expected as a result of the skyist idea of a new International. To Join in Fight for Spain people's front propagation and party democracy with equal, but nated by the official CP, has chosen the slogan for a Labor Party as the the CPSU. This naturally presup-

nternational working-class move- press to you, once again, and in

You will deliberate whether the CPGO our thanks for your assist-CPO should change its name so as ance which has enabled them to to heighten its recruiting power. carry on successfully and continu-We expect that you will select a ously their revolutionary tasks deously that you are a communist men of the fascist dictatorship. organization. This is all the more Your assistance is not merely of important since the influence of material import to our German the ICO rests upon its remaining comrades but above all it is moral the true champion of communist support, reassuring them that.

principles.

CI Mired In Reformism policy is becoming more and more tional proletariat and that they engulfed in the mire of reformism. may count on your active solidarity. The authority of the CI, the The comrades of the CPGO expect prestige of the CPSU, have now of you that you will continue your been put at the service of counter- efforts to mobilize the American revolution in Spain, and are being workers and their organizations for utilized to bring about the suppres- opposition against any and every sion of the Spanish revolutionary attempt of the American bourworkers in the interest of a re- geoisie to prolong the maintenance storation of economic and political of the Nazi Dictatorship by extensupremacy of the Spanish bour- ding credits of any kind. geoisie, and in the interests of world imperialism. In contrast to this criminal policy of the CI, the American working class movement! ICO is urging the workers of all countries to support the proletarian revolution in Spain and its champions against all hostile attacks, May 14, 1937.

Active Solidarity With **Underground Work Is Great Moral Aid**

o matter from which side they may come. The ICO condemns, in particular, the indecent pogrom propaganda which is being organized at present by the leadership of the CI everywhere against the POUM, representative of the comnunist vanguard of the Spanish proletariat. We are gratified to note hat the CPO has done everything in its power towards arousing the solidarity of the American working class with the proletarian revolution in Spain and its champion, the POUM.

The political role and the responsibility of the ICO is especially great today because our policy alone offers the workers a correct evolutionary alternative to people's front reformism, the anti-Bolshevist sectarianism of the Trotskyites, or the political conusion of anarchism.

Against Trotskyist New International

Just as urgently as it is necestional co-operation of all forces that have remained loyal to Marx-What we advocate is a reorganization and a revival of the Communist International on a basis of communist principles and innerthe CPSU. This naturally presupposes that the CPSU must measure counter - revolutionary crimes against the proletarian revolution n Spain and in other countries outside of the Soviet Union with the same yardstick which communists in all other countries apply to counter-revolutionary crimes perpetrated against the power of the Soviet Union.

CPGO Gratified for Aid In the bitter struggle the ICO

s waging, the fraternal support

rendered by the CPO to our comhe name of the comrades of the nite all persecution by the henchthough the conditions for illegalwork be ever so dangerous. they The CI with its people's front are not forgotten by the interna-Long live the CPO-champion

of communism principles in the The Bureau of the ICO

(signed) HEINRICH BRANDLER

Association. Subscription Rates: \$1.00 per year; \$.60 for six months; 5c a copy. Foreign Rates: \$2.00; Canada

Entered as second class matter Nov. 5, 1934, at the Post Office New York, N. Y. under the act of March 3, 1879. Phone: BRyant 9-0127

Vol. 6, No. 24.

Saturday, June 12, 1937.

THE CHICAGO MASSACRE

EPUBLIC STEEL of South Chicago celebrated Memorial Day by unleashing the yellow curs of of the tendency led by Flyg and Chicago's police force upon a peaceful picket line the more reformistic tendency led of one thousand steel workers. That Bloody Sunday's by Kilbom. The former seems to celebration by Tom Girder's boys numbers its have got the upper hand (at least casualties at seven dead, scores injured.

"None of the strikers seized was found to possess firearms," blandly admits the Chicago Police De- tee suddenly expelled Kilbom and partment, AFTER the calmly premeditated murders. It was, indubitably, knowledge of this fact, before the assault, that inspired Chicago's finest-Mayor Kelly's New Deal police force, Cardinal Mundelein's bull-necked degenerates—to fire, club, kick, with true clerico-fascist "Social Justice" into the bodies of one thousand men and women workers of steel. tried to show that paid function-Here is Catholic Action in action for the economic aries would suffer no material royalists. Two days after the massacre a policeman losses if they followed him into the on guard at the Republic plant revealed in a flash Social Democratic movement. how thoroughly drilled his pack had been in murder -"wearing a belt containing fifty .45 caliber bullets," he "took a box of cartridges from his pocket fantastic but it would not be surand said to this correspondent (Daniell, New York) Times): 'We're ready for them, and, boy, am I in it. eager'." Unwittingly this dull-witted hyena revealed The expelled Kilbom opened an all we need to know about the collusion between the office and circularized the party Chicago Police and the Republic Steel in the prepa. with letters calling on them to conration for their murder reign.

Stinking carloads of red herrings are frantically being strewn over the landscape to obliterate the trails leading from Republic Steel to the Democratic, Catholic, New Deal administration of the city of Chicago. With the best defensive deemed to be the offensive, charges of conspiracy to commit an illegal step was the present expulsion. The struggle for the interests of the act have been filed against sixty-five of the steel dust has not yet settled and the working class against capitalism workers. Convictions may mean a maximum punishment of five years in prison and a \$2.000 fine.

We don't give a damn about the Wagner Act, declared, in effect, one of the Republic's mouthpieces after the murders, voicing Steel's knowledge that their government will never dare bring it to justice. The "temporary truce" in Steel is momentarily but a truce on the United States Steel Corporation front while it sends flanking movements of the independent companies to the assault upon the Steel Workers Organizing Committee. The profitdrunk captains of steel hope to halt in its tracks the onward march of unionism by streams of hot lead, so to terrorize the awakening slaves of steel that even in the event of a vote under the Wagner Act they shall be too fear-stricken to defy them.

Steel's hot lead murders have dyed with scarlet in letters too bold, too brilliant in hue, too imperative to ignore, the message to all American labor-"Organize Labor In An Independent Party!" What the New Deal administration of Chicago has done other New Deal local, state and federal agencies are preparing and eager to do. Labor dare not ignore, in this, its struggle for life on American soil, the fact so sorrowfully and dramatically revealed to it in the Chicago Massacre—the enemy controls all the political instruments of power. It is from such occurrances in the life of American Labor that the movement for a Labor Party can be generated, if the advanced section of labor sear the lesson indelibly into the minds of the heroic warriors of

And so, while seven coffins are lowered into their last resting place, and another "good neighbor" smile gets set to break on the hypocritical Roosevelt panorama, and Cardinal Mundelein counts new pennies for another million-dollar mansion to Mammon, labor must pledge itself to carry on in the spirit of the departed warriors of steel. With clenched fists. determination in its heart, labor must pour all its strength, moral and financial, into the drive to bring the Steel Kings to defeat, for that will be the justice, the revenge, hoped for by the seven who were murdered as they lay dying on a Chicago prairie with Steel's New Deal bullets in

And to honest, militant trade unionists everywhere: The guns that ripped hot lead into seven steel workers are aimed at your hearts, your unions too. Defeat the steel czars or you too will face annihilation. The steel workers organization drive is of, by

the CIO-undaunted, invincible, the champion of all American workers!

Organ of the National Council, Independent Communist Labor League. 131 West 33rd St., New York City. Published every Saturday by the Workers Are Book! SWEDISH LABOR

Sweden, better known as the Kil- the differences. But this the Cenoom Party, formerly an independent Communist Party after its expulsion from the Communist International, has now split wide open. It comes as a result of the struggle at the top), since Flyg's majority on the Central Executive Commit-Emil Anderson on the charge that they sought to lead the party back

Since then (May 7) events have moved swiftly. Flyg appears to have produced minutes from a Kilbom caucus at which the latter Those for whom there may be no some small business. It sounds prising to find an element of truth

tinue their dues payments to E.

The first expression of the struggle within the party came last,

Many of the trade union func- Sweden."

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tionaries have demanded a special The centrist Socialist Party of convention of the party to discuss tral Executive Committee has refused to do. It voted 21 to 4 to endorse the expulsion of Kilbom and Anderson and then 22 to 4 tion. It is still difficult to tell what the final outcome will be as far as the ranks are concerned. At the moment it seems that the party is about evenly divided, with Flyg holding the edge because of his control of the press and the leader-

> On the Spanish question Kilbom deserted the position of the party and went over to the people's front position of the CP. He is now being wooed by the Communist Party as well as the Social Democrats. The CP organ Ny Dag has even succeeded in securing an interview with Kilbom and presents his side of the story with great sympathy. It is still possible however, that Kilbom may go to the Social Democrats but his working class supporters will not. The strenuous attempts of the CP to win Kilbom's followers for the CP

Ny Dag: "For our part we are prepared to draw a line over the struggles of the past. What these comrades were before we do not hold against them, it is what they are and what they will be, what they want to do January when Flyg removed Kil- for the cause of the revolutionary bom as editor of the Folkets Dag- labor movement in Sweden. With blat, the central organ. The next each and every one who wants to mud slinging campaign is still go- and fascism we are prepared to ing strong. To believe both sides work together honestly and withwould mean to believe that the out friction. Let us forget old functionaries of the party have quarrels and join hands together

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George F. Miles

TRADE UNION **NOTES**

HICAGO, scene of the great Haymarket frameup, for which several of the leading fighters against calling a special conven- for the eight hour day in 1886 paid with their lives on the gallows, is again the scene of a most ruthless massacre. Seven have been killed and scores severely wounded as a result of police firing into a picket line in front of Republic steel.

The purpose is clear. It is an attempt to break the organization movement led by the CIO by means of a campaign of death and terror by the police and agent provocateurs, to be followed by an attempt to pin responsibility as usual on the "reds" or "outside agitators."

Labor had better prepare now to make impossible this dastardly scheme. Already the Chicago police talk of numerous indictments of workers, not police, altho not a single policemen was seriously hurt and none at all from gunfire. Labor must prepare now to smash a possible frame-up. The seven who gave their life in labor's cause must receive vindication at the hands of labor by a campaign to expose the killers and by an intensified drive to smash the resistance of Republic Steel.

can be seen from an editorial in TT is not out of place at this time, even while the bodies of our dead lie unburied, to remember that this bloody butchery occured in a New Deal state under the New Deal Governor Horner. Be they New Dealers, conservative Democrats, or reactionary Republicans, they have one thing in common—the defense of private property. It was in the course of defending the private property of Republic Steel that American working men were shot down in cold blood. American labor which has begun to learn of new property concepts will also have to learn that these new property concepts, to be effective, must be incorporated, into a new political party which defends and sponsors them—a labor party.

been the most sinister figures in and sincerely create a strong and the country.

Many of the AFL really has placed itself in the service of the employers. On a previous occasion we gave facts and information on the nature of the agreement reached between the Consolidated Edison in New York and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, an AFL affiliate.

Additional information which recently came to light indicates that the terms of the agreement are even worse than originally believed. It has become known for instance that the pact calls for a 40 hour week at a time when between 60% and 75% of the vorkers now work no more than 35 hours a week.

The agreement practically gives the company carte planche on hiring, firing, suspending or transferring workers. Is there any wonder that as these facts pegin to leak out dissatisfaction grows and recruitng comes almost to a complete stop.

It was to offset this dissatisfaction that a commitee of AFL recruits, with the unwilling President Tracev bringing up the rear, appeared before Mr. Carlisle of the Consolidated with a request for a 10% increase in wages. With these improvements in wages, argued the committee, the men could really be swept into the AFL. It is possible that a 5% increase for some categories may be granted.

* * * quote from the "News of the Week," May 22, 1937, issued by the American Labor Party: "In every Democratic club house in the city there are hordes of malcontents who mumble in their corners, but stick around in hopes that someday the powerful' leader will call a recess in his career of enriching himself and give a job to the aforesaid

"Every A.L.P. member must learn what Walker (Jimmy Walker) knows. There are not enough public payroll jobs to take care of all the workers that any political machine needs. We must learn to trade upon the slogan that the majority suffers under a patronage system, and that the greatest good for the greatest number is also the greatest good for the individual, and that the unsuccessful job aspirants had better get to work for the Labor Party instead of wasting their efforts in behalf of grasping

politicians." These ideas have nothing in common with labor politics and should have no place in a labor party. What have the New York unions to say about these proposed Tammany methods for the American La-

California Socialists Bolt; Join Communist Laborites

they refer to as "a loose union of warring factions," and have joined the Communist Party (Opposition). ly hard hit by the fact that the Trotskyists have taken over the Socialist Party there completely. bers of the SP to stop wasting working for the CPO "around ary party in America."

The Statement

the unhealthy situation prevailing of forces within the party and a in the Socialist Party no longer permits us to remain within it.

to be a possibility of its becoming a reformist sect. the Marxist vanguard in the plication in the form of the Workinto the SP. In the resulting confusion many of the best leftwardmoving elements were deflected

man group, with no stated position apart from general anti-Trotskyism; the Porter group, which has adopted bag and baggage the they and we have to work under class-collaborationism of the CP.

Out of this conglomeration emerges almost nothing in the way growing short, and to urge them of constructive activity. The anti-Soviet atmosphere engendered by the Trotskvists, which has by now infected much of the party, is of such a character that we do not choose to be identified with it. Toward mass work the party has an unrealistic approach: it lacks a program for the winning or neutralizing of the middle class; it displays, at least in California, grave neglect of serious trade union work excepting in its May 26, 1937.

Convinced that there was no pos- | romantic aspects; and its centrist sibility of reforming the Socialist and equivocal position toward the Party, a group of comrades in Labor Party can only succeed in to persuade the soldiers not to leave the front stream of American labor.

Despite this situation, we should The west coast has been especial- still feel justified in remaining within the SP if its internal illness porary and if there were no other The comrades appeal to all mem- group capable of becoming the American vanguard party. But the their time in the SP by joining and internal situation is steadily becoming worse: The Appeal group which can be built the revolution- will in all probability be expelled by an unprincipled combination of other factions, including the most right-wing elements; and this in We, the undersigned, feel that turn will lead to a new alignment new series of expulsions. As the end result of this process we see A year ago there seemed to us the degeneration of the party into

On the other hand we find that United States, but the exodus of there is in existence a group that the Old Guard did not, as we had upholds the banner of Marxismhoped it would, clear the way for the Communist Party (Opposition). genuine theoretical clarity and real This group takes a clear-cut Marx- and determination. mass work, for unfortunately there ist-Leninist stand in its opposition entered at that time a new com- to imperialist war and the popular front. In regard to the Soviet ers Party, which was "dissolved" Union it takes the only realistic position possible: that it is essentially a workers' state; that the degeneration of the Communist into a bog of sectarianism others, parties in capitalist countries flows repelled by the unrealistic ap- not from degeneration of the proach of the Trotskyists, drifted | Soviet Union and the C.P.S.U., but to the right, and still others left from the discrepancy between the the party altogether. However, it tasks of building socialism after a would be a mistake to lay all the victorious revolution and those of blame for the present situation at overthrowing capitalism in the rest the door of the Trotskyists. Other of the world; and that any attempt to sink their theoretical differences the hands of fascist counter-revoluin a general anti-Trotskyist com- tion. The CPO avoids the tendency bination, (e.g. Porter) or have de- of both Stalinists and Trotskyists on events in the Soviet Union. It At present the party is a loose has a correct and realistic attitude union of warring factions, the four toward mass work. Its attitude tomain ones being: the Appeal ward the Labor Party is, in congroup; the Zam-Tyler group, which tradistinction to that of the SP although showing signs of develop- one of unequivocal support, since it ing theoretical clarity, neverthe- knows that only the timely parless, due to its center position ticipation of revolutionists within mass of centrist elements; the Alt- lines or an adjunct to CP popular-

We want to impress upon our comrades in the S.P. that the time the comparatively favorable condinot to dissipate their energies any longer in factional disputes which grow ever more bitter and futile but to join the Communist Party (Opposition), the rallying point around which can be built the revolutionary party of America.

ROXANNA BRIMSON EARL LANE EMMA LANE GARDNER S. WELLS

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|REACTIONARY PLOT BEHIND **BARCELONA PROVOCATIONS**

(Continued from Page 1)

California bolted the SP, which isolating the SP even more com- for the purpose of intervening in the fighting pletely in the future from the main at Barcelona. These emissaries prevailed and the soldiers remained at the front.

On Wednesday and Thursday, May 5 and 6, a number of French and English warships appeared showed signs of being merely tem- in the port of Barcelona in support of the counterrevolutionary provocation; evidently they had been summoned by Companys and Valencia. With this, the international connections of the counter-revolutionary coup became clearly established.

> II. THE MANIFESTO ISSUED BY THE CNT. THE FAI AND THE LIBERTARIAN YOUTH OF CATALONIA

During the May events, there became clearly apparent for the first time the split between the masses of the anarcho-syndicalist workers who, weapon in hand, were defending their revolutionary gains, and certain leaders of the CNT and FAI, above all, the CNT cabinet ministers in the Valencia government and the Generalidad. These individuals proved themselves partly corrupt with opportunism and partly lacking in clarity of aim

After the compromise manouver had brought defeat to the revolutionary workers, there followed a violent reaction among the anarcho-syndicalist workers. This reaction is reflected in the manifesto of the leadership of the CNT, the FAI and the Libertarian Youth of Catalonia, published in the May 12 issue of the "Solidaridad Obrera."

This manifesto openly describes the provocation during the first days in May as "a conspiracy." This conspiracy—that is, the attack upon the telephone exchange building—produced a spontaneous protest on the part of workers. The attack upon groups have abandoned any search to undermine the Soviet regime the telephone exchange building was personally for clarity, tending more and more from within means playing into led by the PSUC official, Salas, who was under written orders from Aiguade, orders of which the Council of the Generalidad had no knowledge veloped a principled opposition in- to place disproportionate emphasis whatsoever. This coup was to be the starting point of a "far-reaching plan of action with unqualified

The proclamation points out that this action had been prepared carefully over a long period of time and that part of these preparations had been to demoralize the hinterland and to undermine confidence in the committees and the leadership tracted to itself an amorphous third party cutting across class of the CNT. The proclamation goes on to point out the numerous assassinations of CNT members by the PSUC and the police troops—12 in San Andres, 15 in Taragona, the assassination of the Italian anarchist Berneri, etc. Another aim of the provocation was to bring about foreign interventions of capitalist democracy is tion, "the advance-troops of which were represented by the six French and English war vessels

that appeared on Wednesday and Thursday of the past week in the port of Barcelona." The proclamation declares that, in view of the numerous arrests and individual assassinations perpetrated by their enemies, the CNT and the FAI would find a way for proper retribution, should such practices not cease at once.

The proclamation appeals to the members of the UGT⁵ in the following words:

"Remember that your place is on the side of your class comrades and not in alliance with the bourgeoisie, either big or little, which is defending its own interests and is fighting with every means and weapon available to throttle the Spanish revolution. . . . Stand fast against all provocations and against all those perpetrating such provocations! Work together with us in our common task of exposing the guilty ones in this, the biggest crime in history. Let us unite against the common enemy, the enemy within and without, the enemy at the front and at home, the enemy who is plotting against us in every hole and corner of Spanish politics and in every dark corridor of the government offices of Europe. . . . Long live the revolutionary alliance of the proletariat! Down with the counter-revolution! Long live the unity of the CNT and the UGT, the only

UGT-General Union of Workers, the trade union

safeguard for victory in the war and in the revolution!

The slogan of the revolutionary alliance of the proletariat is equivalent to the slogan issued by the POUM for a revolutionary workers front. The proclamation of the CNT reveals that the anarchosyndicalist workers have begun to learn the lesson of the recent events and that they are determined to continue the fight for the revolution.

III. THE POSITION OF THE POUM ON THE MAY BATTLES

The attitude of the POUM on the May battles is formulated in the resolution adopted by the Enlarged Central Committee of the party after the May events, published on May 13 in "La

"1. The unceasing provocations of the counter-revolution, embodied in the reformist parties of the PSUC and the petty bourgeoisie-provocations aimed at liquidating in the spheres of economy, war and the public order, the revolutionary gains won by the workers, weapon in hand, on July 19, provocations which reached their climax on May 3 with the attempt to storm the telephone exchange building—these provocations produced the armed protest of the proletariat.

"2. The political position of the POUM could be none other than active solidarity with the workers who spontaneously declared a general strike, erected barricades in the streets of Barcelona and took it upon themselves to defend with exemplary heroism the endangered con-

quests of the revolution. "3. Since the workers fighting in the streets lacked concrete aims as well as responsible leadership, the POUM had no other alternative but to organize a strategic retreat by convincing the working class to avoid all desperate action that might have resulted in a putsch, inevitably leading to the complete extermination of the most advanced sections of the prole-

"4. The experience of the May struggles has clearly shown that the only solution lies in the seizure of power by the working class and that it is therefore absolutely necessary for the revolutionary activity of the working masses to be coordinated thru the formation of a revolutionary workers front uniting all organizations ready to fight for the complete annihilation of fascism. This can be accomplished only thru military victory at the front and the victory of the revolution at home.

"The Central Committee of the POUM is of the opinion that the policy pursued by the party has been completely justified; it fully endorses the line of the Executive Committee, convinced that the party has defended the interests of the revolution and of the broad working masses."

IV. THE REORGANIZATION OF THE Valencia Government

The reorganization of the Valencia gov was instigated by the official Communist Party, whose ministers resigned with the demand that the measures against the revolutionary workers of Catalonia be intensified and carried thru to the end, as well as by the French and English governments which made their voice heard in the very cabinet thru the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alvarez del Vayo.

The main objectives of this move were the elimination of Caballero and thus of the left socialists from the Cabinet, the exclusion of the CNT-FAI, the strengthening of bourgeois republican influence, the emancipation of the government from the control of working class organizations, the centralization of military power in a single hand, and the liquidation of the revolutionary achievements of the July days in Catalonia and the rest of Spain. The real nature of this move is best illustrated by a number of facts.

In its issue of May 11, the paper "Adelante," (Continued on Page 6)

and for all American labor. Wipe out the Chicago Massacre! On to victory with

OF MICE AND MEN. By John Steinbeck. Covici-Friede, New York. \$2.

Reviewed by D. Swift

not as large in its emotions as Fielding's Burke's excellent "A Stone Came Rolling," nor is it quite so tender or profound in its sympathies, but in artistic integrity and competence it can stand very well beside it. The story proper is a very simple one. Lennie and George, the first a huge and stupid man, the second a strong and kindly friend, are roving laborers, picking up a job here and there—for the sake of finding another job further on. A beautiful dream gradually possesses them: to save up enough money with which to buy a farm with rabbits on it. In the last job they hold down together. Curiey, the boss's son, develops a haired for Lennie because of his size. But this situation could be handled if it weren't for Curley's wife, a hard, dissatisfied woman, eager for an hour of joy decides to have him ease her yearning, but unfortunately she doesn't know about the power of his hands, breaking its neck. Lennie simply must crush whatever is soft to his touch. So that when Curley's wife neck, he soon does what is inevit- on to say: able with him: he crushes her neck. George has stood for a lot from Lennie, but he will not tolerate murder. So as a last act of friendship, he decides to shoot him himself, instead of having the farm

hands or the authorities do it. A simple enough tale, as I have said, but it is put on paper with great skill and with high feeling for the timeless loneliness of the heavy laden and sore beset of this earth. In addition to being a delicate study of the relationship between two men, the book throws into high relief the complex of emotional antagonisms between those who have and those who haven't, and also between dispossessed mankind and bountiful nature. The very same yearnings and terrors that grip the slum dwellers of New York and the tenant farmers of Tennessee, grip the homeless Lennie and George. For the desire for security surrounded with beauty is universal, especially powerful among those who can never hope to achieve

Mr. Steinbeck, in other words, is writing about the class struggle, but not as a staff philosopher for the Daily Worker. He knows the difference between offering a judgment on economic events, and presenting the emotional turmoil which these economic events arouse. That is, he knows the diference between bad know that the best propaganda is

world masterpiece that some ex- has been resurrected.... citable critics have claimed. In places it is a bit facile, almost (Continued on Page 8)

BOOKS of the AGE REACTIONARY PLOT BEHIND BARCELONA PROVOCATIONS

(Continued from Page 5) American proletarian literature the organ of the UGT and of Largo Caballero

now has a second novel of real size personally, describes the demands raised by the to its credit. The present book is CP of Spain and the Comintern in the following

"If the Caballero government were to apply the measures of suppression to which the Spanish section of the Communist International is trying to incite it, then it would come close to a government of Gil Robles or Lerroux; it would destroy the unity of the working class and expose us to the danger of losing the war and shipwrecking the revolution. . . . A government composed in its majority of people from the labor movement cannot make use of methods that are reserved for reactionary and fascist-like governments.'

The article expressely rejects responsibility for the events in Catalonia and throws the responsibility upon those who provoked the situation.

The role that the French and English governments played in the Catalonian events and the aims pursued by these governments in the situwith almost any man. When she ation and in the reorganization of the Valencia meets Lennie in the barn, she government, are exposed with welcome clarity in a semi-official editorial in the "Temps" of May 17. This article was written after the governmental hands which cannot caress a rabbit crisis in Barcelona had broken out into the open or a mouse without eventually but before it had been solved; it was, therefore, written with a view to influencing the solution of the crisis in the direction desired by the People's induces him to stroke her hair and Front government of France. The editorial goes

> "The struggle therefore proceeds in Valencia, as it went on in Barcelona, between the communist influence, allied with the socialists and republicans, and the anarcho-syndicalists, whom it is a question of destroying and removing from the government. . . . Either Mr. Largo Caballero will simply rebuild his cabinet on the same foundations, that is, from the representatives of all of the People's Front parties and the socialist and anarcho-syndicalist labor organizations or he will attempt to free the republican government from the control of the extremists by building up a combination basing itself entirely on the political parties of the People's Front. If this latter formula is applied, it will signify an important development; in fact, it will constitute a decisive reaction against the so-called proletarian socialist revolution. The anarchists and the syndicalists have never hidden the fact that the defense of the republican regime and the democratic order is their least concern and that what they are above all trying to accomplish on the basis of the present civil war is the complete social revolution for the sole benefit of the proletariat. The republican government of Valencia has reached the point where it must decide. It can no longer remain in the state of ambiguity in which it has hitherto lived. It must choose between democracy and proletarian dictatorship, between order and anarchy."

and English bourgeoisie, directives supported by and good art, and he also seems to the Spanish section of the Communist Internathe best art and vice versa. This is tional, the republican parties and the right wing create a firm alliance of all forces working in this precisely why "Of Mice and Men" of the Social-Democracy, a reorganization in the is so much better a proletarian Valencia government has taken place. Caballero novel than his previous "In Dubious has been ousted. In the government the right wing working class. For such a leadership we must turn Battle." Both are proletarian in content and intent, but the characters in the latter are speeches and has been ousted. In the government the right wing only of Social-Democracy is represented through the latter are speeches and the latter are speeches are speeches and the latter are speeches and the latter are speeches are speeches and the latter are speeches are speeches are speeches are speeches and the latter are s opinions, while the characters in the Minister of the Interior. The Foreign Ministry SP lefts. "Of Mice and Men" are living was handed over to the left republican, Giral, the human beings, who cry in the grass because a system of society does chairman of the left republican party, the man not permit them to dream beautiful who was premier until the fall of Irun and who was removed from the government precisely be-"Of Mice and Men" is not the cause of the fall of Irun. Now this political corpse

The CNT and the FAI have had their repre-Saturday Evening Post. Curley's sentatives ousted from the government, after they wife is pretty much a stock charac- were offered half of their previous representation. ter. The book also touches upon The government now consists of three socialists, two more problems than it illuminates.
And there are other faults, all due official communists and four of the bourgeois parfront fighting in the direction of proletarian perhaps to the fact that Mr. Stein- ties. In reality, this government is dominated by bourgeois republican influence since the right wing the only road!

socialists, such as Prieto, must be regarded as bour- of two meetings of locals of the geois republicans. The UGT is officially not re- Southern Tenant Farmers' Union presented in the new government.

The new government was promptly hailed with great joy by the official press of England and charges of Union officials that France. From these quarters its tasks were openly Arkansas planters were launching prescribed for it. Thus the "Temps" writes in its a new campaign of terror against editorial of May 18:

"But it is noteworthy that he (Azana) yesterday assembled for the purposes of joint consultation the president of the Cortes, Mr. Martinez Barrio; the head of the Republican Union, the former premier Giral; the leader of the republican lefts; the leader of the moderate socialists, Indalecio Prieto; Mr. Ramon Lamoneda; the representative of the leadership of the SP; and Mr. Jose Diaz, the general secretary of the CP. It would be too early to conclude that the orientation in Valencia is toward a more moderate government determined to free itself finally from the control of anarcho-syndicalists. But this is an attempt which, in the end, will have to be made, no matter what the resistance of the extremists may be, if the collapse of the republican state power sooner or later is to be avoided."

From these words, the essence and aims of the new Valencia government emerge clearly. It is supposed to clean up the forces fighting for proletarian revolution, to disarm them, to destroy and of their riding bosses. All of the annihilate them. It is supposed to create a firm basis, from a military and police standpoint, for a bourgeois restoration. These are the objectives but, in reality, the perspectives of such a government go far beyond what these people themselves understand or desire today. If this government continues to pursue its aims consistently, it must in the end undermine the foundations of its own existence, particularly, of the socialist and communist parties. For, in order to destroy the revolutionary elements of the working class in Catalonia and the rest of Spain, it will have to base itself more and more upon the powers of reaction and to apply constantly more reactionary measures—as is clearly pointed out in the declaration of Caballero's paper cited above. It is enough to refer to has received orders from President the example of German Social-Democracy, to Ebert-Scheidemann-Noske, who, in order to smash the Spartacus League, had to rely on the military and White Guardist organizations. It is clear, furthermore, that were this government to succeed in realizing its objectives, the prerequisites for a Division into separate and antagocompromise with the military-fascist insurgents would be created—something towards which the English and French governments have been We think there is no unsurmontworking quite openly. This is a road that can able conflict between craft unions end only in the collapse of the bourgeois-demo- in their field and industrial unions cratic republic—in the defeat of the struggle in the field of mass production inagainst the military-fascists at the front.

But there is by no means any guarantee that the new government and the forces behind it will succeed in realizing their objectives. The countercurrent in the Spanish working class has already begun; this can be seen from the appeals of the Corresponding to these directives of the French CNT-FAI as well as from the attitude of the UGT leadership. To assure the victory of the forces of proletarian revolution it is absolutely necessary to direction and to develop a really communist leadership supported by the majority of the Spanish in the first place to the POUM but also to certain elements among the anarcho-syndicalists and the

It is of the greatest significance that the five thousand men of the Assault Guards sent by Valencia to Barcelona to "restore order," have fallen under the influence of the revolutionary sentiment of the Catalonian workers, that the POUM is gaining in popularity among the workers and that the virtual abolition of Catalonian autonomy has created bad blood even amongst certain petty bourgeois elements. As a whole, however, it must be said that the development of a revolutionary power will be a long and difficult process. But it is | St

STFU Hit By **Boss Terror**

News of the violent breaking up in Mississippi County, Arkansas gave fresh confirmation to the the Union.

An orderly meeting of the Armoral local at the home of Earl Chompson, union member, was disupted when a group of about forty planters and riding bosses, broke into Thompson's home, forcing 75 union members to leave the house at the point of guns. The planters searched the house, destroying furniture and threatening members of the union. After dispersing the meeting they seized the Charter of

On the same night W. B. Moore, organizer for the Union, was forced off the plantation of C. M. & J. R. Whittle, twenty miles west of Blytheville on Little River. Moore had been asked by some 50 tenants on the plantation to come and take their application for membership in the organization. Shortly after arriving at the home of one of the tenants, he was forced to leave by the Whittle brothers and a group men were armed.

Officials of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union in telegrams to Governor Bailey of Arkansas and to the United States Senate Civil Liberties Committee demanded that an investigation be made into these attacks on union rights.

N.Y. Teachers Hit Council's Split

The Teachers Union has sent the following telegram to the Central Trades & Labor Council which Green to expel the C.I.O. unions from local Central Trades:

"We of the Teachers Union, Local 5, wish to express opposition to the expulsion of the C.I.O. unions from the Central Trades. nistic organizations creates serious obstacles to our organizing the teachers into the ranks of labor.

(Signed) C. J. HENDLEY President

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The Illinois Labor Party

not radicals had participated in the Chicago. Labor Party movement of the early

The Labor Party was started by people who for one reason or another had been convinced of the need of a Labor Party for many years and who thought this a good time to set it in motion. There was no special local issue but rather the prepared for by a Conference held general situation which caused it to in Peoria in April. At the State arise at this time. One common Convention the Illinois Labor Parpolicy united the individual trade ty was organized. Besides the Chiunionists who participated in cago delegates there were delegates founding and building the Labor from the Aurora Central Trades Party—the belief that the Party and Labor Assembly in the Fox should be built and controlled by Valley area, from Rockford, from

tral labor body of the city. There are about 300,000 workers in Chicago who are organized in some 600 trade unions. The chief industries are steel in North and South Chicago and outlying districts, railcago is second to New York in the printing trade, is a department store center and a city of diversified industry and service trades. The garment trades probably boast no more than 25,000 workers. The Chicago Federation of Labor is do- strength of the affiliated unions. minated by the building trades and the teamsters. Great numbers o the railroad shop crafts are not affiliated with the Chicago Federation of Labor. Steel was practical-

meat industry only 800 out of the 40,000 workers were in unions. In this generally unorganized, unawakened state of the Chicago labor movement, the Labor Party of Chicago and Cook County was organized on August 25th, 1935, at a Labor Party Conference held as Lathers' Hall in Chicago, 139 official delegates from 60 locals affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and Railroad Brotherhoods took part. The policy declared by this Conference was to get the support of union labor before organizing a broader Labor Party. With this aim the membership was At a later conference held in November of 1935 an organization committee of 39 was set up to

ly unorganized in 1935 and in the

The A. F. of L. Convention in all times to its interest and de- recent union drives are changing periences and their problems, their vanced, the most devoted and the 1935 put about one fifth of the mands. We record with pleasure the balance of organized power be- successes and their failures, their most militant elements in every delegates on record for a Labor the fact that prominent spokesmen tween farmers and labor in those plans and their proposals. As you labor organization and on every Party and showed that the sentiment was general throughout the have pledged themselves to this organized labor movement of the course for the future. United States.

Winning Chicago Unions

Secretary of the State Federation action."

THE present Labor Party move- of Labor's Non-Partisan League ment began in Chicago in the and by the impending split between their political treasuries for the spring of 1935. A small group of the A.F.L. and the C.I.O., shorttrade unionists decided that the ly after the the Convention of 1935. time was ripe to start a labor par- The CIO did not, however, affect ty if an informal call rallied a suf- the situation very much until late ficient number of union delegates. in 1936 and early in 1937 because Among this group were former the steel activity lay outside the in the CIO and their energies were proletarian party members, social- city and hence outside the city temporarily lost to the Labor Parists, communists, communist labor- Federation, while the CIO as a ty. The new unions are still rather ites (CPO) and others who while general movement came late to

> Francis Gorman addressed a Chicago mass meeting on the first of March, 1936 in Carmen's Hall. present. The composition was still largely radical.

Convention was held in Springfield, the Springfield Federation of

tion at the July Convention. At this Convention the member- tee with Wisconsin and Minnesota roads, meat, machinery companies | ship was thrown open to non-union | to carry on the work for a Midsuch as International Harvester, members. The control was retained Western Conference preparatory to Apart from these industries, Chi in the unions by a constitutional a national conference. Illinois by its provision that only unions and predominantly industrial character Labor Party Clubs could be represented at conventions and that the trial northeast than with the total voting strength of all clubs at Farmer-Mid West. It resembles any conference should not be New York State with its division greater than one-third of the voting

County had some labor representa-

Attitude Towards L.N.P.L.

There are about 400,000 union nembers in downstate Illinois. which ranks next to New York in of recent development, examined The most significant group is, of course, the mine workers who are divided into United Mine Workers For this reason a Mid-Western with their center in Springfield, conference prior to a national conand Progressive Miners. One local of the UMWA and about half a emphasis on forms of organization lozen of the Progressive Miners are affiliated with the Labor Party. if such a Conference were to result, The union representation from thru an exchance of experiences. Declaration of Policy to be adopt- would be accomplished. ed, especially about Roosevelt and lof Labor's Non-Partisan League "We for our part will not in this

Party officials. There was no conflict between the two organizations.

The activities of the League however, slowed Labor Party work and caused the unions to empty League and to be slower to affiliate with the Labor Party. Two of the most active Labor

Party organizers, Sarainne Loewe and Meyer Adelman, became active new to organization to press them for affiliation to the Labor Party. The A. F. of L. unions are more definitely divided into progressive and conservative by the CIO issue There were about 3000 people and the effect is felt in Labor Party work notwithstanding that the Labor Party welcomes both types In July of the same year a State of unions. The result is that the Illinois Labor Party is progressing slowly now, winning but a few new affiliations and individual members

Preparing for National Party

No candidates have been run as yet. Owing to a change in the Chicago election laws in 1935 aldermanic elections are held every 4 to the Communist International, years rather than every 2 as form-The Labor Party arose in Chi- Labor, from the Lake County Cen- erly. Senatorial elections will be cago prior to any general progres- tral Labor Council, from the Cen- the first to come up. The Labor sive movement of an organized tral Body of Granite City in the Party is attempting to organize the character in the unions or the cen- south part of the State, from the wards in three Congressional Dis- question"—emphasizing the neces-Centralia central body, and from a tricts, preparatory to running canfew local unions. Of the 100 Coundidates in 1938. ties in Illinois five outside of Cook The Illinois Party has stood for

the formation of a national Labor

Party and has a standing Commitbelongs much more with the indusinto Democratic big city and Republican farm population. The farmer progressivism of Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas is conspicuous by its absence in Illinois words, he sketched the main trends the strength of the Farm Bureau critically the policies of the various (the farmers' Company Union).

downstate also represents radical in placing emphasis on the affiliinfluence in addition to progressive. ation of economic organizations to At the Convention in Springfield the Labor Party rather than on a there was a lively discussion on the purely membership Party, much Those in the Illinois Labor Parthe attitude toward Labor's Non- ty who in general follow the CPO important posts, leaders of big movements are utterly alien, a Partisan League. The following directives in Labor Party work unions with tens of thousands in group grounded in the tested prinwas adopted: "We hope that the should strive, thru the Illinois Par- their ranks and members of wo- ciples and tactics of revolutionary organizers of Labor's Non-Par- ty's connection with the Parties of men's auxiliaries or Local commit- Marxism and determining its criticrestricted to union members only. tisan League will join with us in Minnesota and Wisconsin to work tees, responsible organizers in all al attitude to other political tenquickly moving on to the more ad- with more progressive sections of C.I.O. fields and active workers in dencies on that basis, a group that vanced stage of definite indepen- the Trade Union movement of A. F. of L. unions, men and women is of the very flesh and blood of dent labor political action through those states to bring them into a from every front of the class strugther the labor movement, a group truly secure the affiliation of local a Party based upon the organized more influential position in their gle arose and recounted in vivid on the road to becoming the organized labor movement and responsive at respective Labor Parties. The and unforgettable words their ex- ized expression of the most ad-

ference might seem to throw the

less suitable for Illinois. However,

Effect of CIO Drive Labor's Non-Partisan League has

election endorse or aid any national been inactive since the election in Washington or New York. Among ticket, as we feel that labor will November. There is a possibility the dozens who spoke, it is per-For some time the aim of the benefit more by solidifying the that it may soon unite with the Labor Party in Chicago was to national forces of organized labor Labor Party to form an American haps difficult to direct attention secure the affiliation of the Chicago for state and local elections and Labor Party similar to that in New anywhere in particular but surely Federation of Labor through win- for the building of a national York state. If this development no one who has had the privilege ning enough unions to secure the Labor Party after the November takes place it may be possible to to hear them is ever likely to forget necessary vote. For a time it seem-ed as if the Federation would once course will facilitate the early work of the Labor Party in the the graphic stories told by the women delegates from Flint about more take the lead in independent uniting of all progressive labor direction of really independent political action. Victor A. Olander, forces for independent political political action, a good constitu- plishments have not been at all tion providing for control of of- spectacular and while its individual group—and this name it found in of Labor, and John Fitzpatrick, In the fall Labor's Non-Partisan ficials, and the inclusion of radicals. President of the CFL, issued a de- League of Illinois was organized In the Chicago Labor Party Com- extent its union composition, is LABOR LEAGUE. largely radical, is by no means a nunciation of the old party poli- with Ray Edmundson of the United munists, Socialist and progressives, ticians in the State legislature and Mine Workers as President and Ed largely because of the consistent paper organization. It includes spirit of renewed power and selfresigned from the Labor Advisory Nockels, Secretary of the Chicago policy of those working under most of the progressive unions in confidence that bodes well for the Federation of Labor, as Secretary. CPO ideas have gone some distance | Chicago and is in an excellent posi- | future. Let us now carry this spirit This step on the part of the Chi- Labor's Non-Partisan League toward learning to work together. tion to begin drawing the newly of the convention, its decisions and cago Federation remained the only swept the field of organized labor A progressive group in the C F of organized unions in rubber, auto, directives, into the hard, unremitone taken toward independent poli- in Illinois, rolling up a substantial L has been formed partly out of steel into the labor party. The ting, everyday work upon which tical action. The Federation soon majority for Roosevelt in the State. the grouping in the Labor Party. brutality of the police in all recent | the success of our movement must. began to be affected by the policies The officials of the League, parti- The Labor Party, while its accom-

cularly Brother Edmundson, were on friendly terms with the Labor CPO Convention Reflects New Stages of American Labor

new unions in the United States.

Bertram D. Wolfe, who had just

returned from the conference of the

International Communist Opposi-

tion (I.C.O.), in connection with

which he visited France and Spain.

made a comprehensive and illumi-

nating report on the problems of

with special emphasis on the

the I.C.O. The delegates discussed

the material placed before them

substantial unanimity was achiev-

ed. The resolution on our relations

conference, was reaffirmed. Our

familiar position on the "Spanish

sity of socialist measures and of

the unleashing of the forces of the

socialist revolution in order to win

the civil war, a position largely

in agreement with the course fol-

approved, and the I.C.O. resolution

on the Catalonian events endorsed.

All this amounted essentially to a

continuation and clarification of

From The Firing Line Of The

Class Struggle

political tendencies in the ranks of

labor and outlined the main prob-

were yourself participating in the

boards of strategy at Detroit,

(Continued on Page 8)

The next morning, Jay Lovestone

portant change.

(Continued from Page 1) their part in the great sit-down the C.I.O. and the situation in the strike. Out of it all there emerged trade union movement. With the the picture of a living, active same intense interest, with the movement, making itself felt as a same Marxist realism, the dele- vital force on so many of the battle gates discussed the problems of the fronts of the American class strugrevolutionary struggle against gle! fascism in Europe and the prob-

lems of the consolidation of the To The C.I.O. Belongs The Future! Pooling their experiences, so varied and yet so fundamentally uniform, the delegates unanimously approved the resolution on the situation in the labor movement adopted by the 1936 conference together with a supplementary state. ment on recent developments. Life the international labor movement, itself had shown how thoroly sound was our analysis of the crisis Spanish civil war. On the recent in the labor movement, how realevents in Catalonia there was also istic our forecast as to the tenavailable a last minute report from dencies of development and how fruitful our policies based upon from every angle and, in the end, was enthusiastic and unanimous and revitalized labor movement adopted by the 1936 Labor Day destined to replace the A. F. of L. as the A. F. of L. had once replaced the Knights of Labor.

Reorganizing The Leadership

In view of the vast changes that had taken place in the composition and activities of the C.P.O. in the lowed by the POUM in Spain—was to reorganize the leadership both in structure and personnel. The National Council was greatly broadened to include 53 of the leadcontinuation and clarification of our line rather than to any important change meet several times a year as a whole, and more frequently in two sections, in the East and Mid-West. In addition, a small Execureported on the situation in the tive Committee of eleven was labor movement and the tasks of chosen to direct the everyday work the C.P.O. In vigorous, incisive of the organization.

The Fundamental Significance

Of The Convention Elsewhere in this issue many of the particular decisions of the conlems facing the working class at vention are reported and its main the present moment. D. Benjamin documents reproduced. But, taken supplemented these remarks with as a whole, what did the convena report on the organizational tion show as to the fundamental problems and tasks of the C.P.O. political character of our group, as And then began a scene that is al- to its role and mission in the labor most indescribable in its effect, a movement? It showed that here scene inexhaustible in its true re- was developing a new type of orvolutionary inspiration. Delegate ganization of class-conscious workafter delegate arose, veterans of ers, a group to which the empty the trade union movement and phrases and the pompous pretences recent recruits already occupying of the socialist and communist heard them speak, you felt that field of the class struggle, a group you were yourself on the firing line whose very being is the embodiin Flint or South Chicago, that you ment of the guiding idea of Engels

> "It is possible to participate in the general movement of the working class at every one of its stages of development without surrendering or concealing our own distinct position or even our organization . . ."

It is this independent, communist and labor character of ours that the convention felt required a new and more appropriate name for our membership and, to a much less INDEPENDENT COMMUNIST

The convention adjourned in a

IS COURT REFORM **BEING MENACED?**

By M. S. MAUTNER

WITH the resignation of Justice Van Devanter from the Supreme Court, effective this week, the campaign against the slightest tampering with the High Tor of capitalist class-consciousness, has reached its strategical peak. The successive decisions of the Supreme Court validating the Washington State Minimum Wage Law, the Wagner Act, and the Social Security Act have served as important replenishments of the fast-dwindling ammunition of the Borahs, Nyes, and Wheelers, and the class they represent.

The social-significance of these rulings have been dealt with and exposed in previous issues of the Workers Age. That their validation means not so much a triumph for social and labor legislation as it signifies the grudging but increasing acceptance of the New Deal as an effective political system for hamstringing the labor movement we have consistently emphasized Especially is it important to recognize that these decisions followed immediately upon the great triumphs of labor in steel and auto Undoubtedly the so-called "judicial sit-down strike" was prompted by a hope of defeat of labor in these industries as a basis of invalidation of these meager and dangerous laws (Wagner Act).

Danger of Defeat

For the purpose of this article it is more relevant to examine the crisis the proposals for court reform have been thrown into, and especially to consider the pos sibility of defeat.

From Roosevelt to the Communist Party the liberal bloc counterposed the plan to enlarge the number of justices without touching the fundamental social issues, to the proposals for any amendment to the Constitution affecting the Court. This viewpoint was expressed by a K. N. Llewellyn, in The Nation of March 13, as fol-

"But the issue has been drawn. It has been inescapably drawn. Lose the President's proposal (or some substantial analogue) and all chance for any amendment will be lost." (emphasis in original)

Today the danger is growing that, if labor loses this chance to make a widespread fight for an Faction Rule in amendment, to conduct a campaign against the Court towards which Roosevelt's plan can be considered a first, practical, step, even that

Roosevelt's proposal was not merely that of a "practical politician" who wishes to brush aside passive theorizing and get to work. The Administration is very careful to so handle its labor support as to keep labor's demands functioning within the framework of the New Deal, forestalling as long as possible the inevitable break. Thus, the fundamental issue of curbing the powers of the Supreme Court as such is deliberately glossed over by speaking glibly of "infusing new blood." No blood transfusion but a major operation on the court is labor's need.

Fight For Amendment

Just so long as labor's justified hatred for the legal bulwark of capitalist oppression is kept within the bounds of personnel changes, it is possible to undermine that rising opposition. And that fact determined the strategy of the anti-administration forces in deciding on Van Devanter's resignation. Now the president can appoint a "liberal." The probable fact that this will be Joseph Robinson, loyal party man and loyal voice of the night-riding Arkansas planters, is tics and lynch spirit.

but a further illustration of the untrustworthiness of individualseven those who lead the selfprofessed pro-labor administration.

With this situation, the Administration is more or less assured that now its measures will receive a 6-3 affirmation. And since the proposed changes were based only on getting enough votes to pass New Deal legislation, is it not conceivable that there will be far less enthusiasm to be found for the plan? This is the danger and a great danger because, first, New Deal legislation is not automatically synonymous with labor legislation, and secondly, the 6-3 majority is still a question of individuals and not the guarantees of a constitutional amendment backed by a powerful clear-seeing labor move-

"Even if our whole American population should forget what it was we tried to embody in the Constitution, the Supreme Court is required to remember and act accordwrote William Franklin ngly," Sands in The Commonwealth, (April 16th). This is the power of the Supreme Court, as indicated by the founding fathers and as gathered unto intself thru years of service it has rendered to the ruling class and its most reactionary philosophies of the moment. It was a weapon against Jeffersonian and Jacksonian agrarian democracy, it was the refuge of the slave-holding aristocracy, and today, it is the bulwark of employer - interests against labor.

Labor supports, correctly, Roosevelt's Plan because an amendment involves a deal of time and some action is necessary now. Today it must support the court reforms as part of its general struggle against the employers. But precisely because it is necessary to get this immediate and superficial reform thru now, is it of really vital importance that labor set afoot an agressive campaign for its constitutional amendment. Otherwise this rising movement may disintegrate under the impact of the carefully planned strategy of the die-hard section of American employers, and the equally careful pussyfooting of Roosevelt.

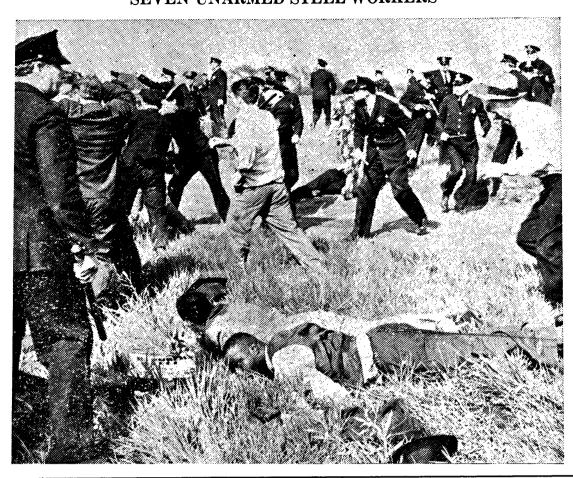
Office Union

At a special membership meeting of the B.S & A.U. (now United Office and Professional Workers Union affiliated with CIO) called to hear a report of delegates to the National Convention of the union recently held in Philadelphia, the slightest difference of opinion voiced with the official CP leadership was branded as disruptionist. Mervin Rathborne of the Radio Telegraphers' Union who was a guest speaker at the meeting launched a bitter attack against the minority elements in the B.S. & A.U. as professional oppositions, disrupters, and agents of the bosses and the company unions, who must be driven out of the labor movement.

This statement aroused large sections of the membership who jumped from their seats in protest demanding that the speaker withdraw his provocative remarks and apologize to the membership. Lewis Merill was finally forced by the indignation of large num-

bers, to apologize for the speaker. It is not yet too late for the CP to put a halt to such progrom tac-

CHICAGO POLICE "DEFEND" REPUBLIC'S PROPERTY BY SLAYING SEVEN UNARMED STEEL WORKERS



Lewis Denounces Republic's Massacre of Steel Strikers

The most outrageous massacre of | tected the hoodlum and the thug. the striking steel workers of Republic It now aids the Republic Steel Com-Steel in South Chicago was vigorously denounced by John L. Lewis, chairman of the C.I.O., in the following statement:

The brutal massacre of the Chicago steel workers is a blot on the national conscience. They were unarmed. The killing took place on the open prairie, six blocks from the gate of the sacred property of the Republic Steel Company. Six men were killed, a hundred others were shot, gassed and clubbed. Not a single policemen was shot. Those who were injured suffered from the naked hands of men who were fighting for their lives against armed killers.

The nation knows the Chicago police force is corrupt. It is the same force that for years has pro- labor and America.

pany. This company and the police force are guilty of planned murder

Somewhere in this nation should be a force strong enough to bring these uniformed killers and their co-conspirators to justice. Somewhere in this nation should be a force greater than a steel company. Somewhere in this nation should be enough earnest and honest citizens to compel action by the federal and state authorities.

Can it be true that striking workmen may be shot at will by the very agents of the law? Is the blood of our American workers less valuable than that in Spain for which we weep? Is labor to be protected or is it to be butchered? The answer is important—both to

Just Out!

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By LAMBDA

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WORKERS AGE

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The Illinois Labor Party

(Continued from Page 7) organization drives and strikes causes these newer unions to more readily realize the need of political action. The close connection between State's Attorney Courtney and the Teamsters. Union makes CIO unions more willing than ever to remove him from office.

Differences between the Labor Party and the old Parties' organizational forms are already apparent in the Illinois Labor Party. The most significant difference is that the guiding bodies are made up of delegates from economic organizations rather than from the Party membership. The change from the old Progressive movement in Wisconsin also took this form. If a national convention follows the same line and calls together unions, unemployed, farm and other petty bourgeois economic organizations, the loose amorphous and dangerous third party movements will be excluded and the population will be truly represented along class lines with labor predominating.

The People's Front policy was encountered before the Springfield Convention in July, 1936. The CP wanted other organizations to affiliate on an equal basis with unions. The device of Labor Party Clubs with the limitation quoted above was adopted to oppose this tendency of the CP. In the Declaration of Policy adopted at the same Convention the CP wished to make a distinction between Landon and Roosevelt but in the Convention a majority of the delegates voted to place the emphasis on distinguishing labor from both capitalist parties rather than on distinctions between them.

The hostility of the Trotskyites and the confusion of other SPers resulted in a few influential individuals working for the Labor Party but very little general activity of the SP membership in the organization.

BOOKS of the AGE

(Continued from Page 6) beck has really written a longish short story rather than a novel. But its virtues are so numerous that it deserves to be read by every American liberal and radical who wants to see how a novel can be proletarian and very good art at the same time.